

Remarks

No claims have been amended. Claim 34-75 were withdrawn in response to a restriction requirement imposed in a previous Action. Claim 89 was canceled in a previous response. Hence, Claims 1-33, 76-88, and 90-107 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 1-3, 6, 9, 12-16, 21, 24, 25, 31-33, 76-78, 81, 84, 87-90, 95, 99 and 105-107 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,856,993 to Verma et al. ("Verma") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,473,767 to Bailey ("Bailey") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,636,878 to Rudoff ("Rudoff"). Claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 17-20, 22, 23, 26-30, 79, 80, 82, 83, 85, 86, 91-94, 96-98, and 100-104 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Verma in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,101, 508 to Wolff ("Wolff").

Claims 1-3, 6, 9, 12-16, 21, 24, 25, 31-33, 76-78, 81, 84, 87-90, 95, 99 and 105-107 are

Patentable over an Alleged Verma-Bailey-Rudoff Combination

Claims 1-3, 6, 9, 12-16, 21, 24, 25, 31-33, 76-78, 81, 84, 87-90, 95, 99 and 105-107 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Verma in view of Bailey and in further view of Rudoff. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

Claim 1 is patentable over the applied references. It recites:

A computer-implemented method for managing files, the method comprising:
recording information about one or more items in a file system to a comparison
file, wherein the information recorded to the comparison file includes
 location information to identify where in the file system the one or more
 items are located;

generating a working version of a portion of the file system, the working version including at least one or more working items that corresponds to the one or more located in the file system;
 persistently maintaining the working version; and
 upon a synchronization event, comparing the location information for the one or more items in the comparison file to the working version to determine if any of the corresponding one or more working items has been moved to a new location in the working version.

Such a method is not taught or suggest by Verma, Bailey, or Rudoff, either individually or in any alleged combination thereof.

1. Verma

Verma discusses techniques for creating a transactional file system, which allows application transactions to be committed to disk without compromising data integrity. (See Verma, Col. 2, lines 12-22). To do so, Verma defines a transaction coordinator that enlists and maintains a set of resource managers to control how and when specific commands are executed and how and when the results of those commands are committed to disk. (See Col. 8, lines 16-30). Although, multiple transactions may be associated with a single file, Verma never records any information about a file to a comparison file. Nor does Verma use a comparison file to determine changes that have occurred in the file system. In other words, Verma does not teach “recording information about one or more items in a file system to a comparison file” nor does it teach “comparing the location information for the one or more items in the comparison file to the working version to determine if any of the corresponding one or more working items has been moved to a new location in the working version” as recited in Claim 1.

The Office Action cites Verma (Col. 9, lines 10-17) as teaching “recording information” and specifically references the “file handler” as the teaching in Verma that

allegedly anticipates the “recording information” aspect of Claim 1. (See Office Action, Page 3). First, the Applicant respectfully notes that Claim 1 recites “recording information about one or more items in a file system to a comparison file.” The cited section of *Verma* only teaches that a “file handle 90 returned in response to a successful create/open request 80 will include a pointer to the transaction context 78.” In *Verma*, a file handler is a pointer to a “transaction context,” it is not a comparison file that contains recorded information in it.

Furthermore, the transactional context that the file handler in *Verma* points to does not teach a comparison file that records information about one or more items in a file system. The transactional context of *Verma* is an object. (See *Verma*, Col. 7, line 8; Col. 7, lines 31-32; Col. 7, line 53). The transaction context object contains information regarding a particular transaction being performed on a file system. Information about the file system itself is not recorded to the transactional context, nor to the file pointer that points to the transactional context.

Moreover, as Claim 1 recites “upon a synchronization event, comparing the location information for the one or more items in the comparison file to the working version to determine if any of the corresponding one or more working items has been moved to a new location in the working version.” *Verma* makes absolutely no mention of comparing information in a comparison file to a working version of a file system in order to determine whether changes in the working version need to be made in the original file system to maintain system synchronization. Therefore, the Office Action’s assertion that *Verma* anticipates those aspects of the claims is incorrect.

2. Bailey

Bailey also does not teach or suggest “recording location information to a comparison file” or “comparing the location information for the one or more items in the comparison file to the working version.” Instead, Bailey describes a system that creates two directories, a source and a target directory, that are compared after file system operations have been performed on either of the two directories. (See Bailey, Col. 2, lines 41-56 and Col. 4, lines 6-18). As part of its procedures for comparing two working directories, Bailey inserts “anti-files” into its directories to indicate when a file has been removed from one of the two directories. When an operation requires the two directories to be synched up, the two directories are compared directly to each other, where an anti-file has been inserted in one of the directories, the Bailey system determines whether it should delete the corresponding file in the other directory. (See Bailey, Col. 2, lines 41-56). Nowhere does Bailey record information to a separate comparison file. Any comparison between the source and target directories in Bailey is performed directly between the two. In fact, Bailey resembles prior art solutions described in the Background which in order to keep file systems in sync, “detect differences between file systems, and then perform operations to eliminate the differences.” (See Background, Page 1, lines 10-15). The invention recited in Claim 1 avoids comparing two file systems directly by recording certain information to the comparison file. Thus, Bailey does not teach or suggest elements of Claim 1.

3. Rudoff

Rudoff also lacks any teaching or suggestion that would indicate recording information to a comparison file and comparing information from the comparison file to a working version of a file system. Importantly, the Office Action makes no allegation

that Rudoff does teach these elements. Therefore, even if a combination of Verma, Bailey, and Rudoff were obvious (although the Applicant disputes such a claim), together they fail to teach or suggest at least the first and last elements of Claim 1.

For at least these reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of Claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Independent Claims 12, 25, 31, 76, 87, 99, and 105 all recite at least “recording information” and a “comparing information” from a comparison file. So for at least the same reasons as set forth above, the Applicant respectfully submits those claims are patentable over the applied references. Dependent claims 2-3, 6, 9, 13-16, 21, 24, 33, 77-78, 81, 84, 88, 90, 95, and 106-107 include the limitations of their independent claims 1, 12, 25, 31, 76, 87, 99, and 105 by virtue of their dependence. Therefore the dependent claims are patentable over the cited art for at least the reasons set forth herein.

Claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 17-20, 22, 23, 26-30, 79, 80, 82, 83, 85, 86, 91-94, 96-98, and 100-104 are Patentable Over an Alleged Verma-Wolff combination

Claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 17-20, 22, 23, 26-30, 79, 80, 82, 83, 85, 86, 91-94, 96-98, and 100-104 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Verma in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,101,508 to Wolff (“Wolff”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, and 11 depend from Independent Claim 1. Accordingly, they incorporate the “recording” and “comparing” elements of Claim 1 which are not taught or suggested by Verma. Wolff describes a process for implementing volume load balancing in a clustered environment. Like Rudoff, the Wolff process does not teach or suggest recording information about one or more items in a file system to a comparison

file nor does it describe comparing information from a comparison file to a working version of a file system. More importantly, the Office Action does not allege that Wolff teaches or suggests these elements. Therefore, even assuming for the sake of argument that a Verma-Wolff combination would have been obvious (although the Applicant dispute such a claim), the alleged Verma-Wolff combination does not teach at least the first and last elements of Claim 1. Therefore, Claim 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, and 11 that depend from Claim 1 are patentable over the alleged Verma-Wolff combination.

For similar reasons, Claims 17-20, 22, 23, 26-30, 79, 80, 82, 83, 85, 86, 91-94, 96-98, and 100-104 are patentable since each depends from an independent claim that recites a “reading” and “comparing” limitation. Accordingly, Applicant submits that all pending claims are patentable over the art of record, including the art cited but not applied. Accordingly, allowance of all claims is hereby respectfully solicited.

CONCLUSION

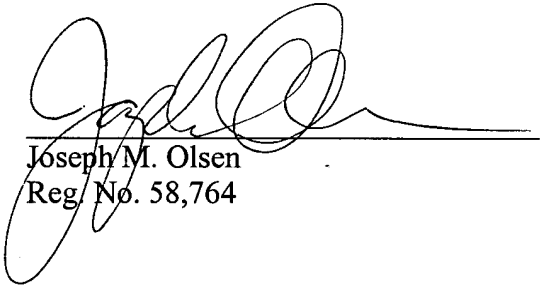
The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application.

A petition for extension of time, to the extent necessary to make this reply timely filed, is hereby made. If applicable, a law firm check for the petition for extension of time fee and all applicable extra claim fees is enclosed herewith. If any applicable fee is missing or insufficient, throughout the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to any applicable fees and to credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop ~~RCB~~ ^{Room 2100}, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

on Aug. 10, 2006

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